## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**In the claims**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle; and

wherein the throated structure further defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the nozzle for receiving a flow of fluid such that the trajectory of the droplet entering the entrance port is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path without breaking apart the droplet as the droplet passes through the exit port.

Claim 2 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid comprises a gas.

Claim 3 (original): The device of claim 2 wherein the gas comprises air.

Claim 4 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid comprises a mist stream.

Claim 5 (original): The device of claim 4 wherein the mist stream comprises micro-droplets having a size 100 times smaller than a size of the droplet.

Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid is drawn through the channel by a vacuum.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 1 further comprising a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the structure.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid enters the throated structure through the entrance port.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid exits through the exit port.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid enters the throated structure through a channel defined distally of the proximal end.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the fluid exits through the channel.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein the channel extends perpendicularly from a longitudinal axis defined by the nozzle.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein the channel extends from the exit port of the nozzle.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13 wherein the channel is defined at least partially by a wall having a cross-sectional profile which partially follows an elliptical shape wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is perpendicular to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the nozzle converges from the entrance port to the exit port.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 15 wherein the nozzle has a conical shape.

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 15 wherein the nozzle is surrounded by a wall having a curved shape.

Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 15 wherein the nozzle is defined by a wall having a cross-sectional profile which partially follows an elliptical shape from the entrance port to the exit port wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is parallel to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the entrance port has a diameter of 1.0-3.0 mm.

Claim 20 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the exit port has a diameter of 0.025-1 mm.

Claim 21 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the distal end of the structure is cylindrically uniform in shape.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle;

wherein the throated structure further defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the nozzle for receiving a flow of fluid such that the trajectory of the droplet entering the entrance port is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path as the droplet passes through the exit port;

wherein the distal end of the structure is cylindrically uniform in shape; and

wherein the cylindrically uniform distal end of the structure is 0.5-1 mm in length.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle;

wherein the throated structure further defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the nozzle for receiving a flow of fluid such that the trajectory of the droplet entering the entrance port is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path as the droplet passes through the exit port; and

wherein the throated structure is 1-150 mm in length.

Claim 24 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the flow of fluid has a flow rate of about 0.5-5 liters per minute.

Claim 25 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the trajectory of the droplet comprises a first trajectory prior to entering the entrance port and a second trajectory after passing through the exit port.

Claim 26 (original): The device of claim 25 wherein the first trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0°-22.5° from a longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 27 (original): The device of claim 26 wherein the first trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0°-15° from the longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 28 (original): The device of claim 25 wherein the second trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0° from a longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle;

wherein the throated structure further defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the nozzle for receiving a flow of fluid such that the trajectory of the droplet entering the entrance port is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path as the droplet passes through the exit port; and

wherein the throated structure is attached to a movable platform configured to translate the throated structure in a planar direction relative to a wellplate disposed adjacently to the proximal end of the nozzle.

Claim 30 (original): The device of claim 29 wherein the movable platform is configured to translate the throated structure in a planar direction over a distance of at least 2 mm.

Claim 31 (original): The device of claim 29 wherein the movable platform is further configured to rotate the throated structure about a point centrally defined within the throated structure such that the proximal end of the nozzle is angularly disposable relative to the wellplate.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A system for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle, wherein the throated structure further defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the nozzle for receiving a flow of fluid such that the trajectory of the droplet entering the entrance port is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path while maintaining the integrity of the droplet as the droplet passes through the exit port; and

a droplet generator configured for ejecting the droplet out of a liquid pool, such that the droplet travels into the entrance port of the throated structure.

Claim 33 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising a target medium disposed distally of the exit port and positioned to receive the droplet.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 33 wherein the target medium comprises a planar medium which is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 35 (original): The system of claim 33 wherein the target medium comprises a glass slide.

Claim 36 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising a capillary tube adapted to be inserted into a reservoir of liquid from which the droplet is ejected.

Claim 37 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising a wellplate disposable between the proximal end of the throated structure and the droplet generator, wherein the wellplate comprises at least one well from which the droplet is ejected by the droplet generator.

Claim 38 (original): The system of claim 37 wherein the wellplate comprises a microtiter plate having 24, 96, 384, 1536, 3456, or 6912 wells.

Claim 39 (original): The system of claim 37 wherein a distance from the wellplate to the proximal end of the throated structure is 0.25-8 mm.

Claim 40 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising a manifold adapted to receive the throated structure such that the manifold defines at least one channel in fluid communication with the exit port, the manifold further defining an orifice through which the droplet traverses.

Claim 41 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising a pump in fluid communication with the throated structure.

Claim 42 (original): The system of claim 32 further comprising an electrically chargeable member located in apposition to the exit port for polarizing the droplet such that the trajectory is further altered.

Claim 43 (original): The system of claim 42 wherein the electrically chargeable member comprises a pin.

Claim 44 (original): The system of claim 42 wherein the electrically chargeable member is adapted to be in electrical communication with a voltage source.

Claim 45 (original): The system of claim 44 wherein the voltage source produces between 500-40,000 volts.

Claim 46 (original): The system of claim 45 wherein the voltage source produces 7500 volts.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a plate having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the plate defines a plurality of throated nozzles therein, each nozzle having an entrance port defined in the first surface and an exit port defined in the second surface; and

at least one channel defined within the device for receiving a flow of fluid therethrough, the channel being in fluid communication with and common to each nozzle such that the trajectory of a droplet entering the entrance port of any nozzle is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path without breaking apart the droplet as the droplet passes through the exit port.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A device for altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

a plate having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the plate defines a plurality of throated nozzles therein, each nozzle having an entrance port defined in the first surface and an exit port defined in the second surface;

at least one channel defined within the device for receiving a flow of fluid therethrough, the channel being in fluid communication with and common to each nozzle such that the trajectory of a droplet entering the entrance port of any nozzle is alterable by the flow of fluid to a predetermined path as the droplet passes through the exit port; and

wherein the channel through which the fluid flows is defined between a well mask and the first surface, the well mask defining a plurality of orifices each located adjacent to a corresponding entrance port in the first surface.

Claim 49 (original): The device of claim 47 wherein the plate further defines at least one inlet in fluid communication with the channel.

Claim 50 (original): The device of claim 47 wherein each of the throated nozzles defines a centerline which is perpendicular to the first surface.

Claim 51 (original): The device of claim 47 wherein each of the nozzles converges from the entrance port to the exit port.

Claim 52 (original): The device of claim 47 wherein each of the nozzles is defined by a wall having a cross-section profile which partially follows an elliptical shape from the entrance port to the exit port wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is parallel to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 53 (original): The device of claim 47 wherein the plate is configured for placement over a wellplate having a plurality of wells such that the entrance port of each nozzle is located over a well.

Claim 54 (original): The device of claim 53 wherein the wellplate comprises a microtiter plate having 24, 96, 384, 1536 3456, or 6912 wells.

Claim 55 (original): The device of claim 47 further comprising a manifold located adjacent the second surface, the manifold defining a receiving channel therein for receiving the flow of fluid, the manifold further defining an orifice through which the droplet traverses.

Claim 56 (original): The device of claim 55 wherein the receiving channel is perpendicularly positioned relative to a centerline defined by the orifice.

Claim 57 (original): The device of claim 48 wherein each orifice has a preconfigured diameter adapted to prevent the fluid from passing turbulently therethrough.

Claim 58 (original): The device of claim 48 wherein each orifice is defined through a capillary tube extending from a surface of the well mask, each of the capillary tubes being adapted for insertion into a reservoir of liquid from which the droplet is ejected.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A method of altering a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

flowing a fluid at least partially through a throated structure having a nozzle defined therethrough with an entrance port at a proximal end of the nozzle and an exit port at a distal end of the nozzle;

passing the droplet having a first trajectory into the entrance port;

altering the first trajectory of the droplet to a predetermined second trajectory via the flowing fluid; and

passing the droplet having the second trajectory through the exit port while maintaining the integrity of the droplet.

Claim 60 (original): The method of claim 59 further comprising altering the second trajectory of the droplet to a predetermined third trajectory via an electrically charged member positioned distally of the exit port.

Claim 61 (original): The method of claim 59 further comprising stabilizing a surface of a liquid reservoir from which the droplet is ejected via a capillary tube prior to passing the droplet having the first trajectory into the entrance port of the nozzle.

Claim 62 (original): The method of claim 59 wherein flowing the fluid through the throated structure comprises urging the fluid flow via a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the throated structure.

Claim 63 (original): The method of claim 59 wherein the first trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0°-22.5° from a longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 64 (original): The method of claim 63 wherein the first trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0°-15° from the longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 65 (original): The method of claim 59 wherein the second trajectory of the droplet defines an angle of 0° from a longitudinal axis defined by the throated structure.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The device of claim 1 wherein the exit port is positioned above the entrance port such that the trajectory of the droplet is counter to a gravitational pull.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The system of claim 32 wherein the exit port is positioned above the entrance port such that the trajectory of the droplet is counter to a gravitational pull.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The system of claim 32 wherein the droplet trajectory of the droplets formed by the droplet generator is counter to a gravitational pull.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The system of claim 32 wherein the droplet generator generates droplets using focused acoustic energy.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein for each nozzle, the exit port is positioned above the entrance port such that the trajectory of the droplet is counter to a gravitational pull.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 further comprising a droplet generator for generating droplets using focused acoustic energy.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of claim 59 wherein the passing the droplet having the first trajectory into the entrance port comprises passing the droplet having the first trajectory into the entrance port in a direction counter to a gravitational pull.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The method of claim 59 wherein the passing the droplet having the first trajectory into the entrance port comprises ejecting the droplet from a reservoir into the entrance port using focused acoustic energy.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A method for directing a trajectory of a droplet comprising:

providing structure including a passageway therethrough;

generating a suction at a distal portion of said passageway, which results in a fluid flow within said passageway; and

ejecting the droplet into a proximal end of said passageway.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The method according to claim 74, further comprising:

altering the trajectory of the droplet with the fluid flow within said passageway.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The method according to claim 75, further comprising:

directing the droplet onto an predefined target.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The method according to claim 76, wherein the target comprises a pre-selected well in a well plate.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The method according to claim 76, wherein the step of ejecting the droplet further comprises ejecting the droplet from a pool of liquid and causing the droplet to travel against gravitational force.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The method according to claim 78, wherein the step of ejecting the droplet further comprises propagating a focused acoustic energy onto a surface of said pool of liquid

Claim 80 (previously presented): The method according to claim 74, wherein said passageway gradually narrows from the proximal end of said passageway towards a distal end of said passageway.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The method according to claim 75, wherein the distal portion of said passageway is configured to prevent boundary layer separation of the fluid flow.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The method according to claim 81, wherein at the distal portion of said passageway the fluid flow is diverted away from a center line of said passageway.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The method according to claim 75, wherein the fluid flow within said passageway is within a range of about 0.5 – 5 liters per minute.

Claim 84 (previously presented): The method according to claim 83, wherein said passageway includes an outlet with a diameter in a range of about 0.025 – 1.0 mm.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The method according to claim 76, wherein said structure further comprises a channel located in a distal portion of said structure, and said suction at the distal portion of said passageway is generated through said channel.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The device of claim 15, wherein the flow of fluid is drawn through the channel by a vacuum.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The device of claim 86 further comprising a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the channel.

Claim 88 (previously presented): The device of claim 15 wherein the channel is defined at least partially by a wall having a cross-sectional profile which partially follows an elliptical shape wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is perpendicular to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 89 (previously presented): The device of claim 17 further comprising a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the channel, wherein the flow of fluid is drawn through the channel by a vacuum.

Claim 90 (previously presented): The device of claim 17 wherein the channel is defined at least partially by a wall having a cross-sectional profile which partially follows an elliptical shape wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is perpendicular to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The device of claim 90 further comprising a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the channel.

Claim 92 (previously presented): The device of claim 17 wherein a distal portion of the nozzle is cylindrically uniform in shape.

Claim 93 (previously presented): The device of claim 92 wherein the channel is defined at least partially by a wall having a cross-sectional profile which partially follows an elliptical shape wherein a major axis of the elliptical shape is perpendicular to a centerline defined by the nozzle.

Claim 94 (previously presented): The device of claim 93 further comprising a vacuum pump adapted to be in fluid communication with the channel, wherein the flow of fluid is drawn through the channel by a vacuum.

Claim 95 (new): A method of accurately transferring a droplet from a container to a desired position on a target medium comprising:

ejecting the droplet from the container to the desired position on the target medium; and

accurately directing the droplet to the desired position on the target medium using a gas stream.

Claim 96 (new): The method according to claim 95, wherein the step of accurately directing the droplet further comprises altering a trajectory of the droplet as the droplet travels from the container to the desired position on the target medium.

Claim 97 (new): The method according to claim 95, wherein the container comprises a well in a wellplate, and the step of ejecting the droplet further comprises ejecting the droplet from a pool of liquid contained within the well.

Claim 98 (new): The method according to claim 97, wherein the step of ejecting the droplet further comprises propagating a focused acoustic wave onto a free surface of the pool of liquid and causing the droplet to eject from the pool of liquid.

Claim 99 (new): The method according to claim 95, wherein the step of accurately directing the droplet further comprises redirecting a momentum of the droplet while maintaining the droplet's integrity.

Claim 100 (new): The method according to claim 99, wherein the step of ejecting the droplet from the container further comprises ejecting the droplet off a free surface of a pool of liquid contained within the container.